

Wyoming BLM Land Use Planning & Projects

February 2008

** Bureau Time Sensitive Plan*

1. **3. Pinedale RMP Revision EIS*** The Pinedale RMP was completed in 1988. It covers 931,000 acres of public surface ownership and 1,185,000 acres of federal mineral estate. Main issues include oil and gas development and big game habitat. **NEPA Status:** **DEIS** released Feb 16, 2007 with a 90 day comment period; comment period extended through June 18, 2007. **Contact:** **Kellie Roadifer, Pinedale FO (307-367-5309)**. Web site is: www.blm.gov/rmp/wy/pinedale
2. **4. Rawlins RMP Revision EIS***
The Great Divide (Rawlins) RMP was completed in November 1990. The RMP covers 3.5 million acres of public land surface ownership and 4.5 million acres of federal mineral estate. Specific issues addressed in the RMP include oil and gas development, coal leasing, livestock grazing, and wildlife habitat. **NEPA status:** Federal Register Notice of Availability of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) as described in the DEIS for a 60 day public review and comment period published June 5, 2007; Proposed RMP/FEIS released for 30 day review; protest period ended February 4, 2008. **Contact:** **John Spehar, Rawlins FO (307-328-4264)**. Web site is www.blm.gov/rmp/wy/rawlins
3. **13. Pappy Draw Exploratory CBM Project EA.** EnCana Inc. has acquired the leases formerly held by the Patina Oil & Gas Corp., Denver CO for this project. The original proposal was to drill 5 exploratory coalbed methane (CBM) wells on public lands administered by the BLM, in the Pappy Draw Unit Area, Sweetwater County, WY. The latest proposal from EnCana is to increase the number of exploratory wells from 5 to 20. **NEPA Status:** Project **Scoping** reinitiated May 23, 2005. **EA** is in preparation. **Contact:** **Chris Krassin, Lander (307-332-8452)**. Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/lfdocs/pappydraw.html
4. **17. Kemmerer Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision**
The Kemmerer Resource Management Plan was completed in 1986 and addressed 1.4 million acres of public land surface ownership and 1.6 million of federal mineral estate. **NEPA Status.** Revision of the RMP initiated by Federal Register publication of **NOI** June 16, 2003. Alternatives have been developed. **DEIS** released July 13, 2007. The 90 day comment and review period ended on October 11, 2007. **Contact:** **Michele Easley, Kemmerer, (307-828-4500)**. Web site: www.blm.gov/rmp/kemmerer
5. **18. Casper RMP Revision**
The Casper Resource Management Plan was completed in 1985. The RMP covers 1.4 million acres of public land surface and 4.7 million acres of federal mineral estate. Main issues include energy and mineral development, vegetation and habitat management, land ownership adjustments, access and transportation; and identification of areas with specific management focus. Revision of the RMP initiated through Federal Register publication of a **NOI June 20, 2003**. Public scoping meetings held November 2003 **NEPA Status:** Proposed RMP and **FEIS** released June 8, 2007, with a 30-day protest period that ended July 9, 2007. A 60-day review and comment period on supplemental ACEC information considered in the DEIS ends August 8, 2007. Protest resolution completed on November 21, 2007. **ROD/RMP** approved December 7, 2007. **Contact:** **Linda Slone, Casper Field Office (307-261-7600)** Web site: www.blm.gov/rmp/casper

6. **22. Seminoe Road Gas Development Project EIS**
This EIS addresses a proposal to drill and operate 1240 CBM wells over a 30-40 year project life span. The project area encompasses about 127,000 acres of federal, state and private lands in Carbon County. NOI published March 13, 2003. Preliminary issues are: water management, visual impacts and road development. Previously approved (EA/DR) activities include: an 18 well CBM pilot project and a 16" dia. gas transmission pipeline that would serve the proposed project area in 2002. **NEPA status: DEIS** issued November 25, 2005. 60 day public comment period began December 2, 2005. Public meeting held February 26, 2006. Comment period ended March 3, 2006. **FEIS** is preparation. This project has been put on hold by the proponent pending new proposed activities. **Contact: Dave Simons, Rawlins (307-328-4328).** Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/rfodocs/seminoroad.html
7. **47. Buffalo Oil and Gas Leasing EA and possible Buffalo RMP Amendment.** In response to rulings made by the IBLA and the US Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, the BLM proposes to examine land use allocations for oil and gas leasing made and in the context of new information regarding CBNG (coal bed natural gas). **NEPA Status:** NOI to prepare an EA was published in the Federal Register, December 16, 2004. Solicitation for comments and information was completed January 31, 2005. **EA** in progress. **Contact: Paul Beels, Project Manager, (307- 684-1168).** Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/bfodocs/rmp-og.html
8. **48. Buffalo Oil and Gas Leasing EA (retrospective).** In response to rulings made by the IBLA and the US Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, the BLM proposes to examine particular environmental effects of oil and gas lease issuance decisions made since February 2000. **NEPA Status:** NOI to prepare an EA was published in the Federal Register, December 16, 2004. Solicitation for comments and information was completed and information was completed January 31, 2005. **EA/FONSI/DR** issued August 22, 2005. **Contact: Paul Beels, Project Manager, (307- 684-1168).** Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/bfodocs/og-leasing.html
9. **50. Westside Irrigation District Land Conveyance Project EIS.** Under the provisions of Public Law 106-485 the Secretary of the Department of the Interior has been directed to convey all right, title and interest (excluding the mineral interest) in a parcel of public land to the Westside Irrigation District. The parcel of land to be conveyed is approximately 16,500 acres and is located in Big Horn and Washakie Counties, Wyoming approximately 5 miles northwest of Worland, WY. **NEPA Status: DEIS** released for 45 day public review and comment period starting January 18, 2008 and ends March 3, 2008. **Contact: Andrew Tkach Project Manager, (307-347-5160).** Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/wfodocs/westside.html
10. **52. Eagle Butte Coal LBA EIS.** The BLM received a competitive coal lease application from the Foundation Coal West, Inc. (Foundation) for a maintenance tract of Federal coal adjacent to Foundation's Eagle Butte Mine in Campbell County, WY. As filed the application includes approximately 243.2 million tons of in-place Federal coal. The approximately 1,397 acres of surface estate overlying the Federal coal is privately owned. **NEPA Status:** NOI published in Federal Register April 2005. **DEIS** issued October 20, 2006, 60-day comment period ended December 19, 2006. **FEIS** issued August 31, 2007; 30-day review period ended October 1, 2007. **ROD** signed October 11, 2007, issued December 3, 2007. **Contact: Nancy Doelger, Project Manager, (307-261-7600).** Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/cfodocs/eaglebutte-westcoal.html

11. **60. Continental Divide - Creston EIS.** Devon Energy Corporation representing themselves and other lease holders in the area has submitted a proposal to drill and develop up to 1,250 wells on an estimated 1,000 well pads. The proposal is within the same project area analyzed under the 184,000 acres in the Creston Blue Gap EIS 1994. The project area is a mix of federal, private and some state lands, and is located approximately 40 miles southwest of the city of Rawlins, WY. Operators in the Continental Divide/Wamsutter II area have submitted a proposal to drill and develop natural gas resources. The CD/W2 new proposal is adjacent to the CBG2. Projects have been combined due to proximity, similarity of proposed action, and timing. Project area is approx. 1.1 million acres with an estimated 8,950 wells proposed possibly including 500 CBNG wells. **NEPA Status:** NOI for CD-C was published in Federal Register March 3, 2006. **Contact: Dave Simons, Project Leader, Rawlins FO (307-328-4328).** Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/rfodocs/cd_creston.html
12. **61. Pinedale Anticline Oil & Gas Exploration and Development Supplemental EIS.** In response to requests for the BLM to consider year-round drilling activities in areas previously subject to timing lease stipulations in big game winter range, the BLM has initiated the preparation of a supplemental EIS (SEIS) for the Pinedale Anticline project area (PAPA) FEIS/ROD 2000. The FEIS is being supplemented in response to operators' requests to drill or complete or both natural gas wells in big game winter range. **NEPA Status: DEIS** issued December 15, 2006 with 60 day public review and comment period. Supplemental air quality information released for 45 day comment period ended April 16, 2007. A revised **Draft SEIS** released December 28, 2007 for 45 day public comment. Comment period ends February 11, 2008. **Contact: Caleb Hiner, Project Leader, Pinedale FO (307-367-5352).** Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/pfodocs/anticline/seis.html.
13. **64. Moxa Arch Area Infill Gas Development Project EIS.** The operators in the Moxa Arch gas field have submitted a proposal to infill drill additional natural gas wells that would facilitate gas extraction, maximize the economic recovery of the resource and extend the production life of the field. The operators estimate that approximately 1,860 new gas wells would be drilled within the project area over a 10 year period. The project area under consideration is approximately 476,300 acres of mixed federal, state and private lands in Sweetwater, Uinta and Lincoln Counties. **NEPA Status: NOI** published in Federal Register October 7, 2005. **DEIS** released October 12, 2007. Public review and comment period extended through January 10, 2008. **Contact: Michele Easley, Kemmerer, (307-828-4524).** Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/kfodocs/moxa_arch.html
14. **65. Jones Draw Petroleum, LLC Underground Access Oil Recovery Project EA.** Proposed development of an underground access oil recovery facility in the Fales Creek drainage approximately 50 miles west of Casper in the Rattlesnake Mountains. The project area is 3,875 acres of which an estimated 35 to 40 acres would need to disturb the land surface. **NEPA Status:** Scoping initiated October 1, 2005, comment period ended November 1, 2005. Public meeting held October 18, 2005. **EA** is in preparation. State of Wyoming is a cooperating agency. **Contact: Patricia Karbs, Casper FO (307-261-7612)** Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/cfodocs/jones.html
15. **70. Fortification Creek Area EA Amendment to Buffalo RMP (formerly Plan of Development EAs.)** The Buffalo Field Office has announced its intentions to initiate the NEPA process and amend the Buffalo Resource Management Plan (1985, amended 2003) to develop additional management direction and objectives for the Fortification Creek area east of Buffalo, WY. Land use decisions currently in place need to be evaluated to determine whether those

decisions are still relevant. BLM continues to receive requests for oil and gas exploration and development in the 100,000 acres Fortification Creek area, a mix of federal, state and private surface ownership. There has been interest expressed by the public for other uses. The BLM will prepare an EA to evaluate the current conditions and address issues that have presented management challenges. **NEPA Status:** NOI published in Federal Register August 20, 2007. Scoping underway. **Contact: Tom Bills, Project Manager, Buffalo Field Office, (307-684-1168).** Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/bfodocs/fortification_creek.html

16. **72. Hiawatha Field Project EIS.** Questar Exploration & Production Company and Wexpro Company propose to drill exploratory and development wells within existing natural gas fields in southern Sweetwater County, Wyoming and northern Moffat County, Colorado. The project area of approximately 157,335 acres is generally located about 55 miles south of Rock Springs, WY. The proponents propose to drill up to 4,207 new conventional natural gas wells mainly within the boundaries of the existing Hiawatha, Canyon Creek, and Trail units of southwest Wyoming and northwest Colorado. About 66% of the proposed wells would be located in Wyoming with the remainder in Colorado. **NEPA Status:** NOI issued in Sept. 6, 2006 Federal Register. Public meetings held at Little Snake FO - Sept 27, 2006 and Rock Springs FO - Sept 28, 2006. **DEIS** in preparation. **Contact: John MacDonald, Project Leader, Rock Springs Field Office. (307-352-0321).** Web site: <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/rsfodocs/hiawatha.html>

17. **73. West Antelope II Coal LBA EIS.** The BLM received a competitive coal lease application from Antelope Coal Company for a maintenance tract of Federal coal adjacent to the Antelope Mine in Campbell and Converse Counties, WY. As filed the application includes approximately 430 million tons of in-place Federal coal. The approximately 4,109 acres of surface estate overlying the Federal coal is privately owned. **NEPA Status:** NOI published in Federal Register October, 2006. Scoping meeting held November 1, 2006 in Douglas, Wyoming. **DEIS** issued February 8, 2008 for a 45 day public review and comment period. Public meeting & hearing to be held March 24, 2008. **Contact: Sarah Bucklin, Project Manager, (307-261-7600).** Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/cfodocs/West_Antelope_II.html

18. **74. Catalina Unit CBNG Produced Water Disposal EA:** The RFO has received a proposal from Double Eagle Petroleum to construct and operate an EMIT water treatment plant within the Cow Creek Unit/Catalina Unit CBNG development, within the Atlantic Rim Project Area. The original proposal was determined to likely result in significant impacts, and so revised to address BLM and WGFD concerns. Produced water would be treated and discharged under an approved WYPDES permit. The project is located in the Colorado River System, and is subject to the Salinity Control Forum's rules. The discharge would result in approximately 1.3 cfs of treated water being disposed of into Muddy Creek, a watercourse with several sensitive fishes. **NEPA Status:** A new EA was completed November 6, 2007. Decision Record in preparation, decision expected mid-December. **Contact John Ahlbrandt, Rawlins, (307- 328-4200).**

19. **78. Lander RMP Revision EIS.** The Lander Resource Management Plan (RMP) was completed in 1987. The RMP covers approximately 2.5 million acres of BLM administered surface and approximately 2.7 million acres of BLM administered federal mineral estate located in Fremont, Natrona, Sweetwater, Carbon and Hot Springs Counties. Main issues include energy and mineral development, rangeland health, vegetation and habitat management, wild horse and burro

management, cultural resources management, lands and realty management and management of recreational uses of the BLM administered surface. **NEPA Status:** Revision of the RMP was initiated by Federal Register publication of a NOI on February 13, 2007. Public Scoping meetings were held during the week of March 19-23, 2007. Proposed DEIS expected to be completed for public review in the fall 2008. **Contact: Kristin Yannone, Project Leader, Lander Field Office (307-332-8400)** Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/lfo/lander_rmp.htm

20. **79. South Gillette Area Coal LBA EIS.** The BLM received 4 competitive coal lease by applications (LBAs). All 4 applicants have filed for maintenance tracts. Because these applications have been filed for tracts all within the Powder River Basin, Campbell County, Wyoming and are generally similar actions, the BLM has decided to prepare one Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address the environmental impacts of approving the 4 LBAs. The four applicants and subject maintenance tracts are: Foundation Coal Coal West, **Belle Ayr North** for a tract adjacent to the Belle Ayr Mine for approximately 200 million tons of federal coal; Caballo Coal Company, **Caballo West**, for a tract adjacent to the Caballo Mine for approximately 87 million tons of federal coal; Cordero Mining Company, **Maysdorf II**, for a tract adjacent to the Cordero-Rojo Mine for approximately 483 million tons of federal coal; and Ark Land Company, **West Coal Creek**, for a tract adjacent to the Coal Creek Mine for 57 million tons of federal coal. **NEPA Status:** A NOI was published in the Federal Register March 29, 2007. A scoping meeting that considered all 4 applications was held in Gillette, Wyoming on April 11, 2007. **DEIS** is in preparation. **Contact: Teresa Johnson, Project Leader, Casper Field Office, (307) 261-7600.** Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/cfodocs/south_gillette.html
21. **80. Wright Area Coal LBA EIS.** The BLM received 4 competitive coal lease by applications (LBAs). One applicant has filed for 2 separate maintenance tracts, the other two applicants have filed for one maintenance tract each. All 4 LBAs were submitted for federal coal within the Powder River Basin, Campbell County, Wyoming. Because all 4 applications were for coal in the same general area and are the actions are similar in nature the BLM has decided to prepare one EIS to address the environmental impacts of approving the 4 LBAs. The applicants and subject maintenance tracts are: Ark Land Company, **Hilight Field** and **West Hilight Field** for 2 maintenance tracts, with each tract being adjacent to the Black Thunder Mine, for approximately 588 million tons and 428 million tons, respectively of federal coal; Jacobs Ranch Coal Company, **West Jacobs Ranch**, for a maintenance tract adjacent to the Jacobs Ranch Mine for 598 million tons of federal coal; and BTU Western Resources, Inc., **Porcupine**, for a maintenance tract adjacent to the North Antelope Rochelle Mine for approximately 598 million tons of federal coal. **NEPA Status:** NOI published in the Federal Register July 3, 2007. A scoping meeting that considered all for applications/tracts was held in Gillette, Wyoming on July 24, 2007. **DEIS** in preparation. **Contact: Sarah Bucklin, Project Leader, Casper Field Office, (307) 261-7600.** Web site: www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/cfodocs/WrightCoal.html

Cooperating Agency Projects Completed or In Progress

A. Northern Great Plains Plan Revision, Thunder Basin National Grassland- updated October 2007. Forest Service has initiated NEPA process to address program specific direction for oil and gas leasing in the Thunder Basin.

Lead Agency: USDA Forest Service, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grasslands, Laramie, WY. National Grasslands in NE WY, located S. of Gillette, and NE of Casper. Web site: <http://www.fs.fed.us/ngp/>

B. Medicine Bow National Forest Plan Revision, Oil & Gas Leasing

Lead agency: USDA Forest Service, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests/Thunder Basin National Grasslands, Laramie, WY. National Forest located in S.E. WY. Plan revision includes analysis of oil and gas leasing of National Forest System lands and management of Federal mineral estate, including specified lease stipulations. **FEIS and ROD** issued December 29, 2003. Web site: www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr/

C. Bridger-Teton National Forest Plan Revision –updated February 2008

Lead agency: USDA Forest Service, Bridger – Teton National Forest, Jackson, WY. National Forest located in N.W. WY. Plan revision includes analysis of oil and gas leasing of National Forest System lands and management of Federal mineral estate, including specified lease stipulations. A **NOI** to prepare a supplemental **EIS** regarding leasing approximately 44,720 acres within the Big Piney Ranger District was published in the Federal Register February 4, 2008. **NEPA Status:** Plan is being revised under the 2005 Forest Service updated planning regulations therefore it is not subject to the NEPA process. Contact: John Kuzloski, B-TNF, (307-739-5500) Web site: www.fs.fed.us/btnf/oil&gas.htm

D. State-wide Grasshopper/Mormon Cricket Management

Lead agency: USDA- Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). A Memorandum of Understanding between APHIS and the BLM-WY was issued on April 23, 2003 regarding management of the agricultural pests, grasshoppers and Mormon crickets. The MOU provides specific guidance, procedures and practices concerning the management of grasshoppers and Mormon cricket populations on public lands administered by the BLM-WY. Contact: Bruce Shambaugh, APHIS, Wyoming Plant Director, (307-772-2323)

E. Wind River Reservation, Wind River Natural Gas Field Development

Lead Agency: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Wind River Agency, Fort Washakie, WY. The BIA has received a proposal by Tom Brown Inc. Sampson Resources and Saba Energy of Texas to drill and develop natural gas wells and associated ancillary facilities. **NEPA Status:** NOA for **FEIS** published in Federal Register December 17, 2004. Record of Decision issued February 8, 2005. Contact: Ray A. Nation, BIA-Wind River Agency, (307) 332-3718)

F. Riverton Dome Coalbed Natural Gas Project.

Lead Agency: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Wind River Agency, Fort Washakie, WY. The BIA has received a proposal by Devon Energy to drill and develop natural gas wells and associated ancillary facilities. **NEPA Status:** Public Notice was sent out Sept. 26, 2005; a public meeting was held at St. Stephens Elementary School on Oct. 12, 2005; the public comment period closed on Oct. 28, 2005. Public meeting held Oct. 12, 2005. **EIS** preparation in progress. Contact: Ray A. Nation or Charlie Dillahunt, BIA-Wind River Agency, (307) 332-3718.

